

M: 12-72-24

^{K-4}
m-42-12-24

Henry T. Onley, Jr. House
Big Woods Community
Private

c. 1915

This handsome two story frame house is representative of the type constructed by the second generation of postbellum Black landowners in rural Montgomery County. Its facade consists of three bays arranged in bilateral symmetry, and its roofline is accented by a cross gable pediment. The floor plan consists of two rooms down and two up with stove flues in each gable end.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

m-12-42-24
magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Henry T. Onley , Jr. Family House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East side of Big Woods Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

☒ VICINITY OF (Big Woods)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

No

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES RESTRICTED

☐ YES UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Henry T. Onley

Telephone #: not listed

STREET & NUMBER

20815 Big Woods Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Md.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Registry of Deeds

Liber #: 252

Folio #: 310

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE
Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M: 12-42-24

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This tall two story frame house stands at the end of a long dirt road, seldom used today, leading north from Big Woods Road. In earlier days, it was much more travelled since it led past the houses of Lewis Brown, Isaac Owens, , and James Lee. The road appears to have continued north from this house, probably to the old Big Woods road, running east-west connecting the Beallsville Road to Dickerson.

Florence Hallman from Big Woods, whose uncle Henry T. Onley, Jr. lived in this house, recalls that the southern length was the front of the house, but in design it appears that the northern side was intended to be the facade, since that length has three bays, symmetrically arranged, as opposed to the two on the southern side. The northern length also has a cross gable pediment accenting its roof line, giving that side a more impressive appearance.

In plan, there are two rooms downstairs and two upstairs, the typical arrangement for houses such as this one. Though the interior was not investigated, it appears that the east room downstairs was the kitchen since there is a side door leading outside, whereas the west room has two windows in its gable end. Probably that west room was the more formal sitting room. All of the windows had double hung sashes with 2 x 2 lights. This type was in contrast to the smaller windows in log houses which typically had smaller and less expensive panes in each sash, usually six to a sash.

The house is heated with wood stoves, and there are brick stove flues ascending the interior of each gable end. The roof is covered with tin.

Florence Hallman recalls that this house, like many frame houses, was not painted nor whitewashed. She does not know why these frame houses were left unpainted, while the log houses were whitewashed.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1915

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is another fine example of the two story frame houses that were built near the turn of the century as homes for black landowners. It is a handsome dwelling. It was most likely built at the time of purchase by the Onley family in 1915.

This tract was first purchased in 1909 by Black families in Big Woods from A.C. Brown. The purchasers were members of the Sellman Lodge of the True Reformers. Daniel Diggins of Big Woods was Taskmaster. For further details of the Sellman Lodge of True Reformers, refer to its inventory form.

In 1915, the surviving members of the Sellman Lodge of True Reformers sold this tract to Lawrence Onley, as recorded in deed 252/308. Lawrence Onley was the son of Henry T. Onley, Jr. and according to his first cousin Florence Onley Hallman, this tall frame house on this tract was the home of Lawrence's father, Henry T. Onley, Jr. On the basis of this, the site is named the Henry T. Onley Family house.

Along with other parcels south of this tract, it had been owned by Andrew Clinton Brown near the turn of the 20th century. They had acquired the land in 1890 from Joseph and Ann White (Deed, JA 21/439), and it was part of the tract known as "Woodstock". It had been a part of the real estate owned by Christian T. Hempstone. In 1845 the White family had purchased the property (32 1/2 acres) from the Hempstones, who were residents of Loudan County Virginia. Specifically Benjamin White purchased the land from Cephas and Mary Hempstone, as recorded in deed STS 1/412. In the 1879 Atlas of Montgomery County by George Hopkins, Richard G. White's residence is shown in the vicinity of this property.

Thus, in its antebellum history, Big Woods was a community of both black and white landowners since the free Black families of the Spensers and Awkards lived nearby.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land Records, Montgomery County Courthouse, Rockville, Md.:252/308;210/209.
 Oral interviews with Florence Hallman, Big Woods, July-September, 1978 by
 George McDaniel (not taped).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Surveyor Wesley Stubbs, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

Jan. 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO:

~~Maryland Historical Trust
 The State House State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 271-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS

Box 87, Stronghold
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510



Henry T. Onley, Jr House

South length: near

M-12-42-24

Big Woods Community
Photograph by Anne Lewis

5/79

ADL 790502-1 #26